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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/978,599	10/16/2001	Rony A. Abovitz	ZKT 2 0014	5128

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EXAMINER

SHAH, DEVAANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3737

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/978,599

Applicant(s)

ABOVITZ ET AL.

Examiner

Devaang Shah

Art Unit

3737

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 31-37 and 39 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,6,8,12-19,21-30 and 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,5,7,9-11 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings, which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: reference number 64 in figure 1. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 8, 15, 23-29, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "the user input devices" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 15 recites the limitations "the camera" and "the surgical suite" in lines 3 and 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

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Claim 23 recites the limitation "the secure digital medium" in lines 8 and 9 and the limitation "the instrumented surgical tools" in lines 14 and 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 38 recites the limitation "the improvement" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,332,891 B1 to Himes. Himes discloses a

system and method for performing image-guided surgery. The system includes a

computer with display and relevant software, disposable surgical tools, and a tracking

system. The computer, display, and peripherals are disposed on a mobile cart.

Different sets of imaging modalities such as CT and MR are used to generate diagnostic

images and for calibration (column 2, lines 9-30; column 4, lines 5-20; figure 1).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 14, 18, 19 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Himes.

Referring to claim 14, Himes discloses a transmitter that broadcasts electromagnetic waves to a sensing unit attached to a portion of the tool to which the cutting accessory is attached (column 3, lines 58-67; column 4, lines 1-4). Infrared waves are electromagnetic waves. Though Himes does not specify the wavelength used, it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use infrared waves for position sensing since it is well known in the art to use infrared waves for such applications.

Referring to claims 18 and 19, it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to save the data from a surgical procedure for medical records, as medical records and review are imperative in hospitals.

Referring to claim 30, though Himes does not explicitly disclose that the system must be sterile, it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the system must be sterile in order to be used in a surgical procedure, as it is well known in the art that surgery must be performed in a sterile environment.

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***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 31-37 and 39 are allowed.
6. Claims 2, 5, 7, 9-11, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent No. 6,425,865 B1 to Salcudean et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,379,302 B1 to Kessman et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,485,413 B1 to Boppart et al.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devaang Shah whose telephone number is 703-306-0333. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marvin Lateef can be reached on 703 308-3256. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3590 for regular communications and 703-308-0758 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

DS D.S.  
December 2, 2002

  
Marvin M. Lateef  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3700